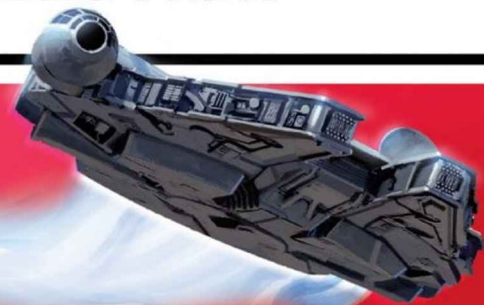


4 STORIES  
IN 1



# STAR WARS™

— GALACTIC ADVENTURES —  
STORYBOOK COLLECTION



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# STAR WARS™

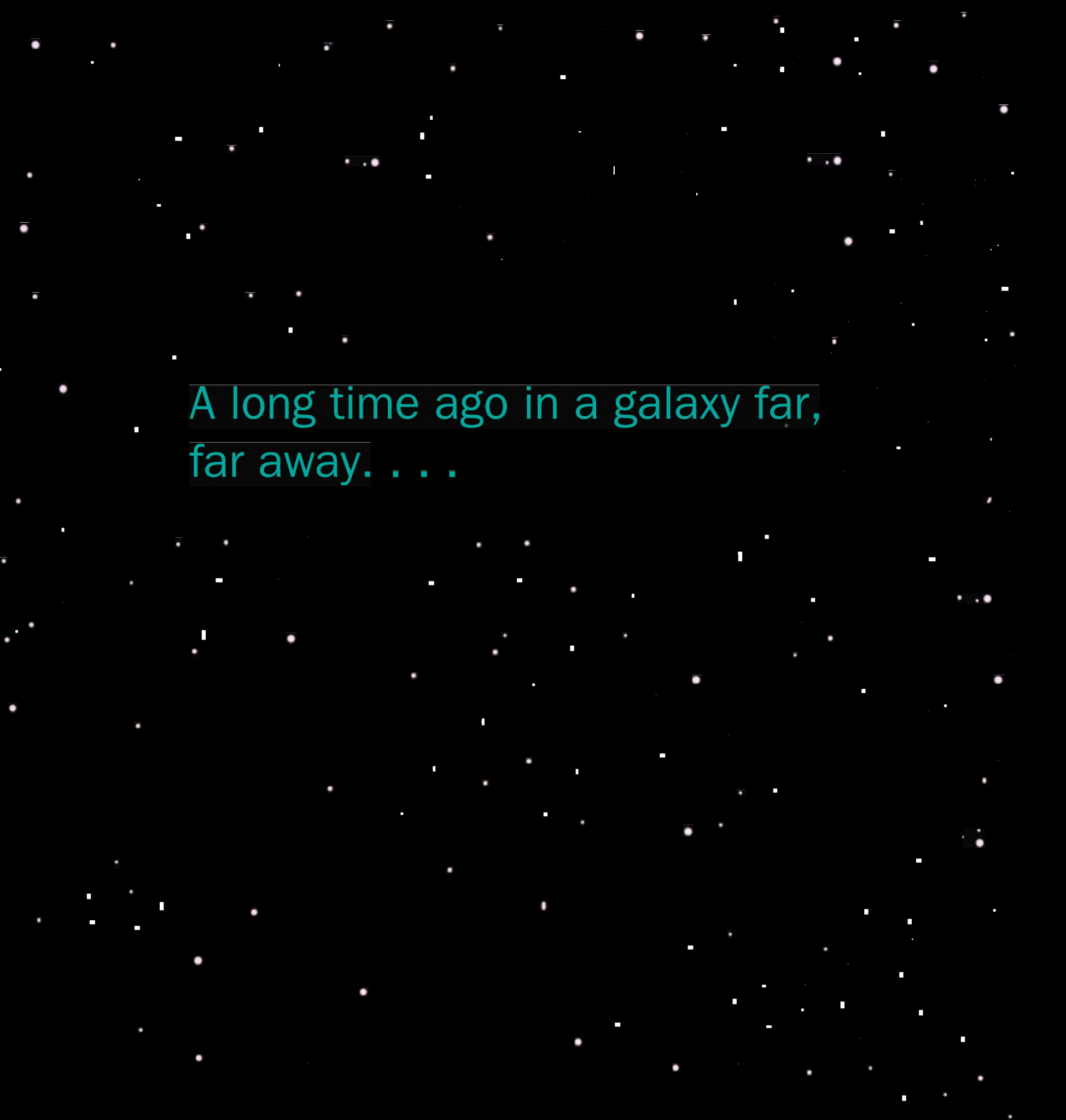
— GALACTIC ADVENTURES —  
**STORYBOOK COLLECTION**

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Los Angeles • New York



A long time ago in a galaxy far,  
far away. . . .





# SIZE MATTERS NOT











## A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR,

far away, a brave group of men and women stood up for what was right. They were known as Jedi Knights, and they were guardians of peace and justice. They used wisdom to help those in need, carried elegant weapons called lightsabers, and received their power from the Force—an energy field created by all living things. When the dark side of the Force overpowered the light, it was up to the Jedi to restore the balance.

And one powerful Jedi flew in a silver starship toward the faraway planet of Botor to do just that.







For on Botor, a large fortress hid a horde of heavily armed pirates. The pirates earned their living by selling valuable items on the black market. Though they usually dealt in weapons and supplies, they had recently acquired something far more valuable—a prize that was sure to bring in their biggest payoff yet.

Crouched inside a metal cage was a young boy named Lo. Lo was perfectly ordinary in every way except one: he was able to move things just by looking at them. He didn't understand this power, and he didn't know that his gift was the





reason the pirates had captured him. He only knew that he was frightened.

Lo shivered while two dozen menacing pirates gathered around his cage. The boy studied his captors' thick arms, pointed blasters, and cruel glares before turning his attention to the leader sitting atop a throne. This was Lord Alorg.

"Please," Lo whispered to the cloaked creature. "I don't know why I'm here."

Lord Alorg narrowed his eyes. "You're a Force user," he said. "And we all know what happens to Force users. Don't we?"



Suddenly, a guard ran into the lair. He warned the pirates that a ship had landed outside and they needed to be ready to fight.

Lord Alorg drummed long fingers against his throne. He had expected the Jedi to come for Lo. But Botor was Alorg's territory, and nobody took something from him without paying . . . not even the galaxy's most powerful protectors.

"Is it a Jedi?" A short pirate raised his blaster. "A *real* Jedi?"

The guard frowned. "I've never seen one before," he admitted. "But he's . . . definitely not what I expected."





Lord Alorg growled.

“Whoever he is, he’d better have our money if he wants the kid.”

Lo’s stomach lurched. As the doors of the fortress parted, he tried to steady himself on the floor of his cage. A bright beam of sunshine pierced the darkness, forcing Lo to close his eyes. When he opened them again, a brave Jedi was walking into the pirates’ lair.





The pirates raised their weapons, preparing to fight a mighty Jedi warrior. But laughter burst from their throats as an aging green figure proceeded forward.

With his small size and unsteady steps, Yoda didn't look like a powerful Jedi. In fact, he didn't look like a Jedi at all!



Yoda stood quietly as the pirates' laughter echoed around him. He knew what the pirates could not understand—that a Jedi's strength flowed not from his or her size but from the Force itself.

"Find this humorous, I do not,"

Yoda warned.

"Heh." Lord Alorg looked down on Yoda. "What are you supposed to be, little fella?"

"The boy's escort to Coruscant, I am," Yoda said calmly, "where his training he will begin."

Alorg demanded payment, but Yoda shook his head.

"The Jedi care not for wealth," he said. "The Force is our only companion."

Lord Alorg sneered. "Then it looks like you and the Force just walked into a whole mess of trouble."





As Lo watched anxiously from his cage, Lord Alorg ordered his guards to attack Yoda. The Jedi refused to be intimidated by the towering, angry pirates. A youngling was trapped, and he would not abandon someone who needed help.

The guards lunged at Yoda, and the brave Jedi raised his palm. He used the Force to seize control of the pirates. Their hands balled into fists and their eyes widened in surprise. When Yoda twitched his fingers, the taller guard's arm shot forward to punch his partner in the face!

"Ow!" The shorter guard cried out as his partner hit him again. "Stop it!"

Yoda waited for Lord Alorg to call off his men. But instead of releasing Lo, Alorg ordered his guards to attack the boy. Yoda couldn't allow an innocent child to be harmed. The pirate lord's cruelty would cost him greatly.

The Jedi knew what he had to do.











Once more, Yoda told the guards to stop.

“Only more violence does violence create,” he cautioned.

But the guards crept closer to Lo’s cage, forcing Yoda to act. Lo watched with wide eyes as the small Jedi raised one hand and used the Force to slam the guards onto the ground without ever touching them.

The rest of the pirates charged Yoda, but the Jedi expertly deflected their attacks,





sending one, then the next hurtling across the room and onto the floor.

Finally, only Lord Alorg remained. The pirate leader leapt from his throne to tackle Yoda, but the Jedi sent him flying across the room. Lord Alorg hit the ground hard, landing beside a pile of guards. When the whole horde lay still, Yoda looked up in triumph. He had taken out an entire room of pirates!



With a slow breath, Yoda turned his attention to Lo. The Jedi calmly stepped around his fallen foes before reaching out to open Lo's cage. The door sprung open. Yoda had saved him. He was free!

Yoda offered his hand to Lo.

"Time to go, it is," he said kindly.



Lo's fingers shook as he reached up to grasp Yoda's palm. The Jedi guided him out of the cage and helped him to his feet. The two stepped across the piles of pirates, forging their path with cautious steps. When they reached the door, they emerged from the darkness to walk hand in hand into the light. As they stood in the sunshine, Yoda turned to Lo and spoke the words that would forever change his life.

"Began, your training has."





Yoda took Lo to Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn and his Padawan Obi-Wan Kenobi. They would escort Lo to his new home—the Jedi Temple.

“Worry not, Lo,” Yoda assured the youngling. “Safe you will be with Qui-Gon Jinn.”

Lo studied the two men. They were big and strong. Lo was small and scared, and he didn’t understand how he could move things just by looking at them. But if there was one lesson he had learned from Yoda, it was that things weren’t always what they seemed—and that even someone who was small could be very, very powerful.

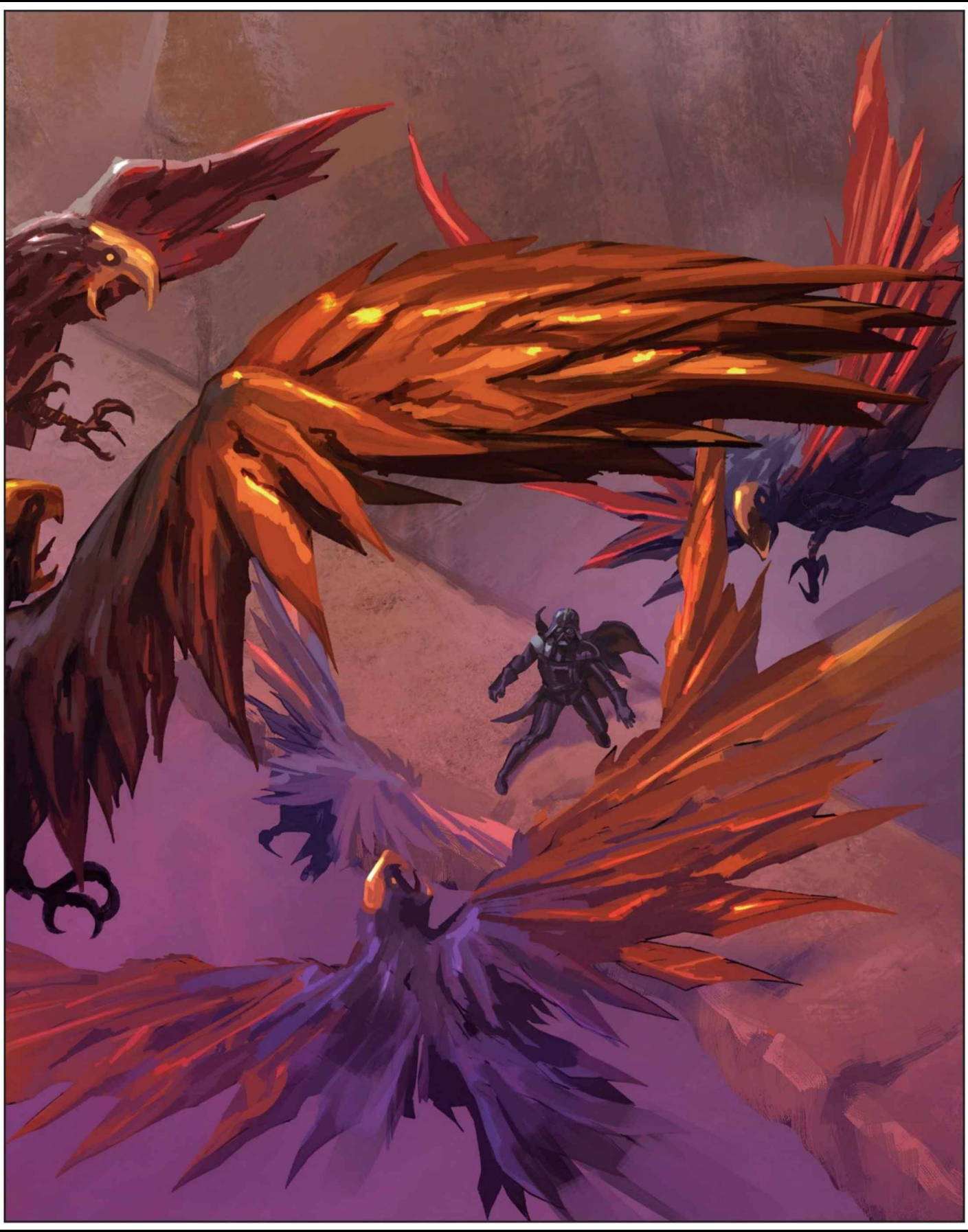
Size mattered not.







# DARTH VAADER AND THE WEAPON OF A SITH











# DARTH VADER PILOTED HIS SHIP THROUGH THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE OF AL'DOLEEM.

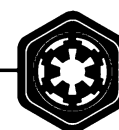
Once a promising Jedi Knight known as Anakin Skywalker, the young man had surrendered to the dark side of the Force and become Darth Vader. But he had lost his lightsaber during a duel with his former friend and teacher Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Now the evil Sith Lord Darth Sidious had challenged his new apprentice to construct his own lightsaber.

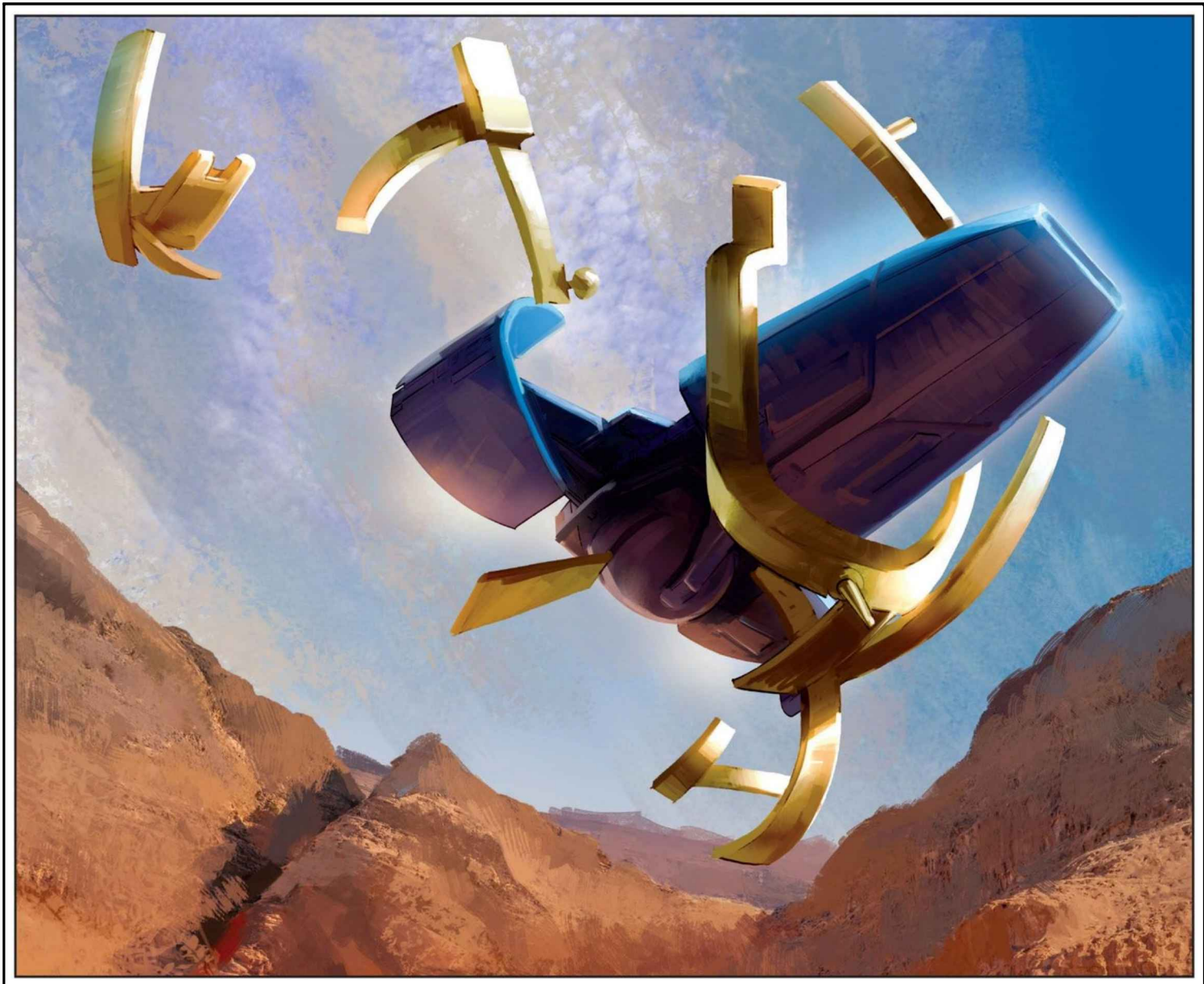
But in order for him to do so, Vader had to first find a Jedi with a lightsaber, and that would be no easy task. Darth Sidious had used his clone army to destroy the Jedi Order.

However, Vader had heard of a Jedi Master named Kirak Infil'a who had escaped Darth Sidious's deadly attack.

So the Sith Lord had charted a course to the Jedi's home moon.



But as Vader prepared to land, Infil'a must have sensed his presence. . . .  
Suddenly, a large, strange piece of metal struck the Sith's ship!  
Infil'a had used the Force to fling a sculpture from below as a first line of defense.  
A talented pilot, Vader was able to land his ship in spite of the damage.  
He sensed Infil'a nearby, and he would not keep the Jedi waiting.  
Vader needed to defeat the Jedi and take his lightsaber so he could return to Darth Sidious and finish his training.







Vader set out to find Infil'a. But before long, the Jedi launched a surprise attack, raising a heavy wall to trap the Sith in a canyon!

"You stink of darkness!" Infil'a bellowed from above.

Vader's anger flared. He did not have time for a discussion. He called on the dark side of the Force to reach up from the depth of the canyon to attack the Jedi.





With great effort, the Jedi broke free of Vader's Force grip.

"You will not defeat me that way," Infil'a boomed, activating his lightsaber. "You will not defeat me at all."


The Jedi sensed why Vader was there, and he had no intention of giving up his sacred weapon—especially not to a Sith, who would take control of the kyber crystal inside the lightsaber and turn it red, the mark of the dark side.

Infil'a called a wave of water down on Vader. The water flooded the canyon, pinning Vader in a deep undercurrent.









But Vader was stronger in the Force than Infil'a had thought.  
With every ounce of his concentration, the Sith pushed the water to either side,  
clearing a path so he could climb to higher ground and go after the Jedi.







As Vader reached a bridge, he heard the sound of heavy wings beating down from above.

Five deadly raptorans circled the Sith, taking turns striking at their prey!

Vader used the Force to protect himself, slamming the flying creatures into the rocky walls of the mountainside.

The Jedi was surprised by Vader's strength.

He called off the raptorans' attack.

It was time for Infil'a to face the Sith himself.







As Vader climbed the mountain to confront Infil'a, he found the Jedi's servant droid instead. The droid wanted to protect his master.

But the loyal servant was no match for the dark side, and the Sith soon disabled him, taking the droid's glowing electro sword for himself.





Now nothing stood between Vader and Infil'a, but the Jedi was ready for him. The two enemies battled hard at the edge of a cliff, equally matched in opposite sides of the Force.

Infil'a was determined not only to defeat Vader but to destroy the Sith Lord who had sent him.

"I will seek out your master and destroy him as well," said the Jedi between blows. "And then, I will restore the light of the Jedi to the galaxy."

With that, Infil'a used the Force to send Vader tumbling off the edge of the cliff!



Infil'a made his way to a nearby town to get his ship and go after Darth Sidious. But Vader—whose armor had saved him from his fall—was soon close behind. He had realized something important: Infil'a had a weakness that Vader could use to defeat the Jedi.

There was something Infil'a cared about more than winning.  
The Jedi cared about others.



The warriors faced off once more at the top of the city dam.

Infil'a was amazed to see Vader had survived the fall, and he was eager to defeat the Sith once and for all.

But then Vader set his final plan in motion, using the Force to rip the dam open and unleash a flood that spilled over the town.





While Infil'a desperately tried to repair the damage and save the city, Vader struck the winning blow, using the Force to steal the Jedi's lightsaber as Infil'a fell into the crashing waves.





Darth Vader returned to his new teacher, lightsaber in hand.

Darth Sidious was pleased with his young apprentice.

The Sith had defeated Infil'a, and he had used the dark side of the Force to turn the Jedi's green saber a deep red.

Darth Vader was ready to complete his training as a Sith at Sidious's side.

Together they would become more powerful than anyone could imagine.







# LEIA CHARTS HER OWN COURSE



## THE REBELLION HAD WON A HUGE BATTLE.

Using information that Princess Leia Organa stole for them, the rebels had destroyed the evil Empire's most powerful weapon, the Death Star. But it was too late for Leia's homeworld, Alderaan. Before the battle, the Empire had used the Death Star to destroy the entire planet. Princess Leia was devastated. But she knew she needed to continue fighting with the Rebellion if there was any hope of defeating the evil Empire once and for all.











During the medal ceremony where Leia honored the other heroes of the battle, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Chewbacca the Wookiee, General Dodonna reminded the Rebellion that their fight was far from over.





“The Empire is still strong, and we are in danger,” he said. “There is a lot of work to do. You have all been given your jobs.”

Leia looked over at him, puzzled. No one had given *her* a job yet.



After the ceremony, Leia went to speak with General Dodonna. She asked him to give her a new mission. The general told her that the best thing she could do for the Rebellion was stay hidden. The Empire was looking for her, and it was too dangerous to send her out.

Leia was upset. She didn't want to hide.





When Leia left the meeting with Dodonna, she was frustrated and distracted by her own thoughts.

Why couldn't she keep fighting for the Rebellion?

Suddenly, she bumped into an Alderaanian pilot named Evaan.

Leia was glad to meet someone else from her home planet, but Evaan had terrible news.

"The Empire is hunting down all remaining Alderaanians," she explained.

Leia couldn't believe her ears.

The Empire had already destroyed her home planet. Now they wanted to search the galaxy to capture her fellow Alderaanians? Leia wouldn't stand for it.

"I know what we must do," she said.

"We'?" asked Evaan.





That night, Dodonna woke up in his room to see a hologram message playing. It was Leia!

“I am sending you this out of respect,” said the hologram, “and to beg your understanding. It is my duty to gather the people of Alderaan who were not on the planet when it was destroyed. It is my duty to protect them from the Empire.”

If Dodonna wouldn’t let Leia fight for the Rebellion, she would fight for her people instead.





General Dodonna was furious, but it was too late. Leia, Evaan, and the droid R2-D2 were heading through space in a shuttle.

Before they could jump to hyperspace, Evaan noticed something on her radar.

“We’re being pursued,” said Evaan.

Two X-wings were chasing the shuttle and catching up fast. Dodonna had sent two rebel pilots to bring Leia back.



The speedy X-wings flew past the shuttle, then settled in front of it and started to slow down.

“What are they doing?” asked Leia.

“They’re stopping us by getting in our way,” replied Evaan. “We can’t jump to hyperspace without hitting them.”







Evaan tried to maneuver around the other pilots, but the X-wings were too fast. She would have to try another tactic. . . .

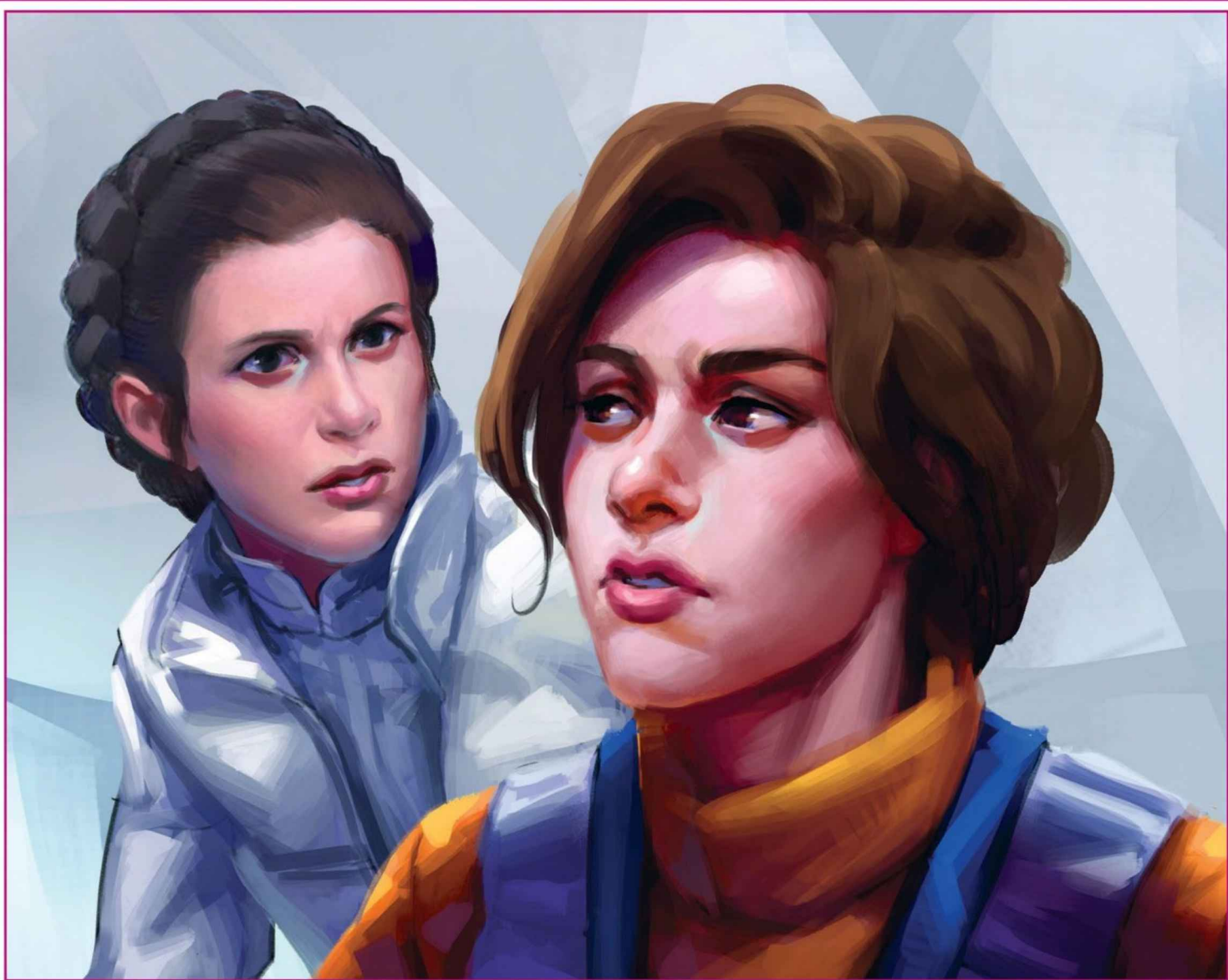


*KLANG!* The shuttle banged into one of the X-wings. A small metal piece flew off the shuttle and floated away into space. The shuttle started to wobble.

“That was a piece of our hyperdrive,” said Evaan. “We can only fix it back at port.”







“You did that on purpose!” said Leia. “You don’t want me to put myself in danger. You want this mission to fail!”

The two rebel pilots heard Evazan and Leia over their comms. They pulled their X-wings back to give the shuttle more room.

“They’re falling back,” Evazan said.


“So what?” snapped Leia.

“So *this*,” said Evazan, and pushed down the hyperdrive lever.









*FWOOSH!* The shuttle jumped to hyperspace and escaped.

Leia was confused. “I thought the hyperdrive was—”

“I wanted *them* to think that,” explained Evaan. “The piece that flew away was a fake. Artoo and I figured out a plan, but we couldn’t tell you without them hearing.”

“Evaan, you are magnificent!” Leia shouted. “You too, Artoo!”

She knew her mission was important, and she would have been willing to do it alone. But it was nice having friends to help her.





The shuttle flew on through hyperspace, toward a galaxy full of people from Alderaan who needed Leia's help. Leia would honor her lost planet in her own way—by working and fighting and never giving up.







# R2-D2 AND THE RENEGADE RESCUE











## C-3PO WAS IN DANGER!

Stormtroopers had captured him and were holding him prisoner aboard a Star Destroyer. They planned to make C-3PO tell them where his friends Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, and the rebel fleet were hiding.

The only thing was . . . C-3PO didn't know.

The stormtroopers contacted Darth Vader. "The droid is useless. He doesn't know where the secret rebel base is. We will scrap him for parts."

"I beg your pardon!" C-3PO exclaimed. "I am quite an important figure to the Rebel Alliance. My friends simply will not rest until I am safe."

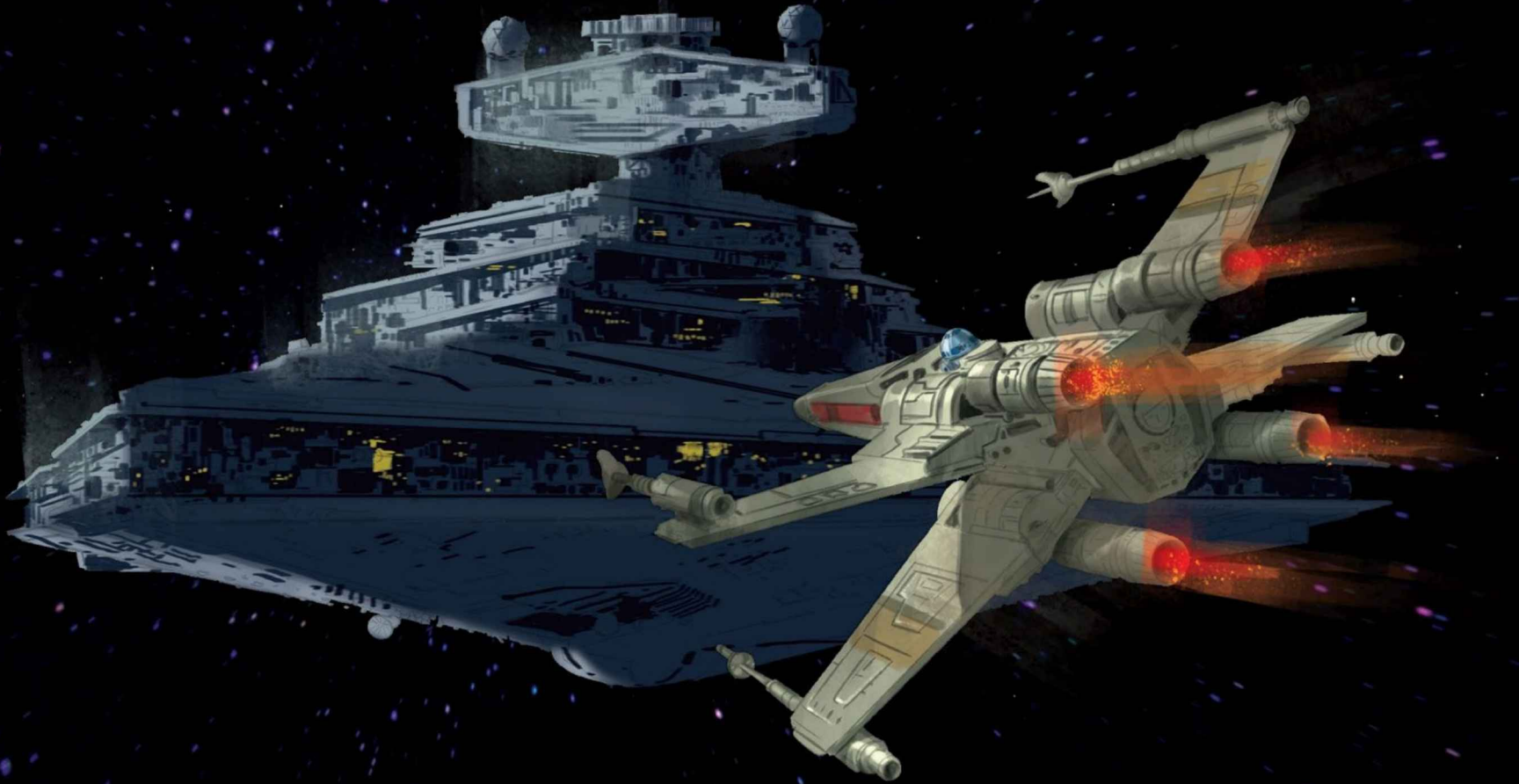
C-3PO hoped help was on the way . . . and fast!



Help *was* on the way. But not from whom C-3PO expected.

R2-D2 had stolen an X-wing and charted a course to the Star Destroyer where C-3PO was being held captive.

Once there, he shut down all the power to make it look like his ship was drifting in space.



“Our scans show no signs of life,” the Star Destroyer’s Imperial crew members told their captain.

“Bring it on board,” the captain ordered. “It might have information about the rebel fleet’s hiding place.”

R2-D2’s trick had worked!





As soon as R2-D2's ship was docked in the cargo bay, stormtroopers surrounded it. How was one little droid going to get past so many guards?

The stormtroopers contacted their captain.

"Looks like there's nothing on board the ship except a droid. What should we do?"

"Take it apart and scan its memory banks," the captain ordered from the control room.

Now R2-D2 was really in trouble.



ZAP!

Quick as a flash, R2-D2 stunned the stormtrooper examining him.

“What the—?” exclaimed the others. “The droid is attacking! Blast it!”

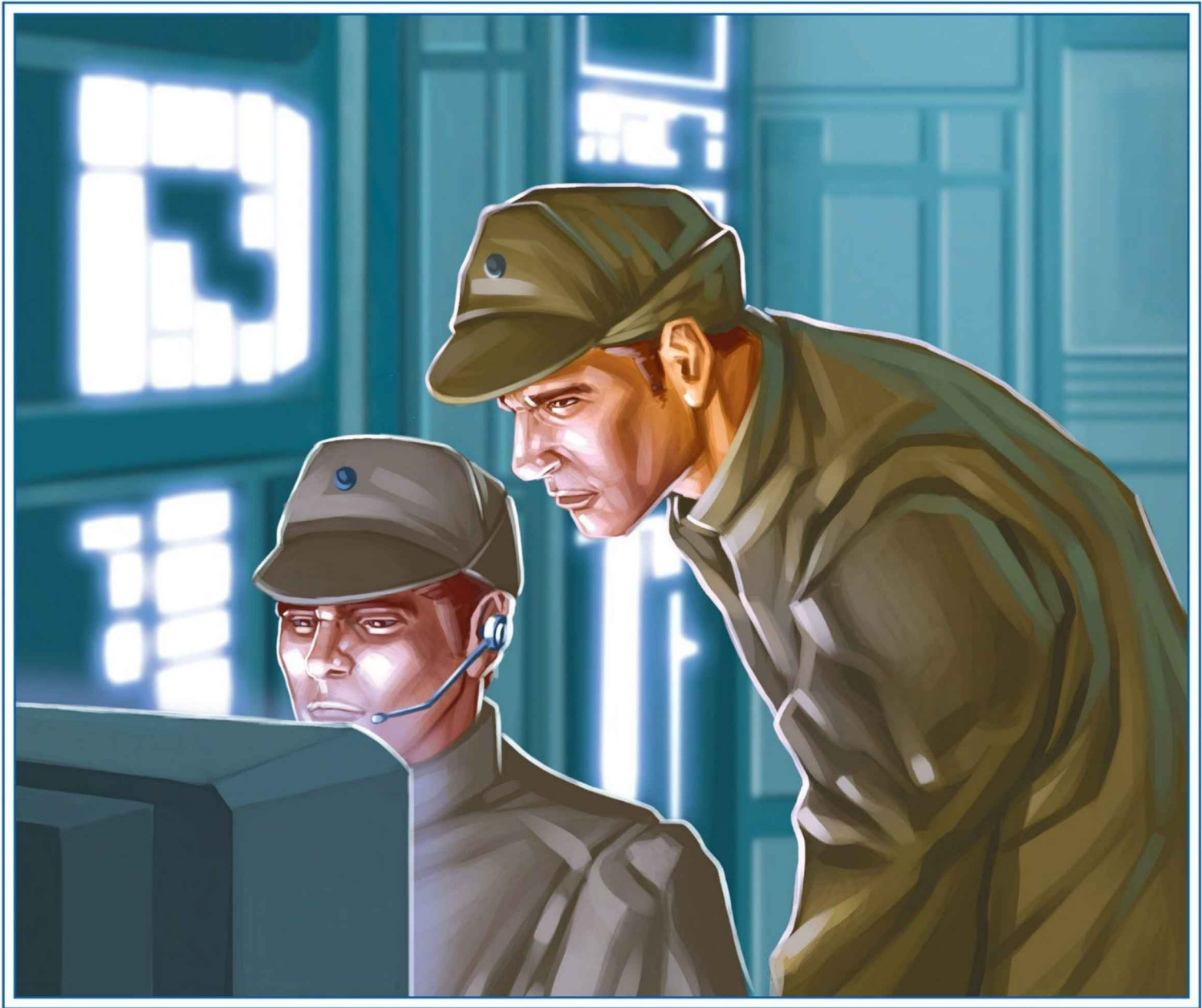
The stormtroopers drew their blasters, but before they could fire a single shot, R2-D2 stunned *all* of them!

“Beedo-deedo-thwarrk!” R2-D2 rolled away.

He was on a mission to save his friend, and nothing was going to stop him.







“We’ve lost contact with the stormtrooper team,” the crew members in the control room told their captain. “The last thing they reported was something about a droid.”

“Are you saying a *droid* took down an entire team of stormtroopers?” the captain asked angrily. “Send down more troops. Tell them to be on the lookout for the biggest, *nastiest* droid they’ve ever seen!”

Thankfully, R2-D2 did not look big *or* nasty. R2-D2 looked small and harmless, so he was able to roll past many stormtroopers without raising suspicion.







But while R2-D2 was small, he was far from harmless.

As he searched for his friend, he locked one team of stormtroopers in a cargo bay, confined a second set of soldiers behind a blast door, and then trapped a third team of troopers in a trash compactor.

“How did we even get down here?” one of the stormtroopers said. It had all happened so fast.

But R2-D2 was running out of time. More stormtroopers would be on the way soon, and he had to find C-3PO before his friend was scrapped for parts!

He searched every containment cell until, finally . . .



"It's about time!" C-3PO cried when R2-D2 opened the door to his cell. Two Imperial droids hovered over him, about to dismantle him.

"What took you so long?" C-3PO asked.

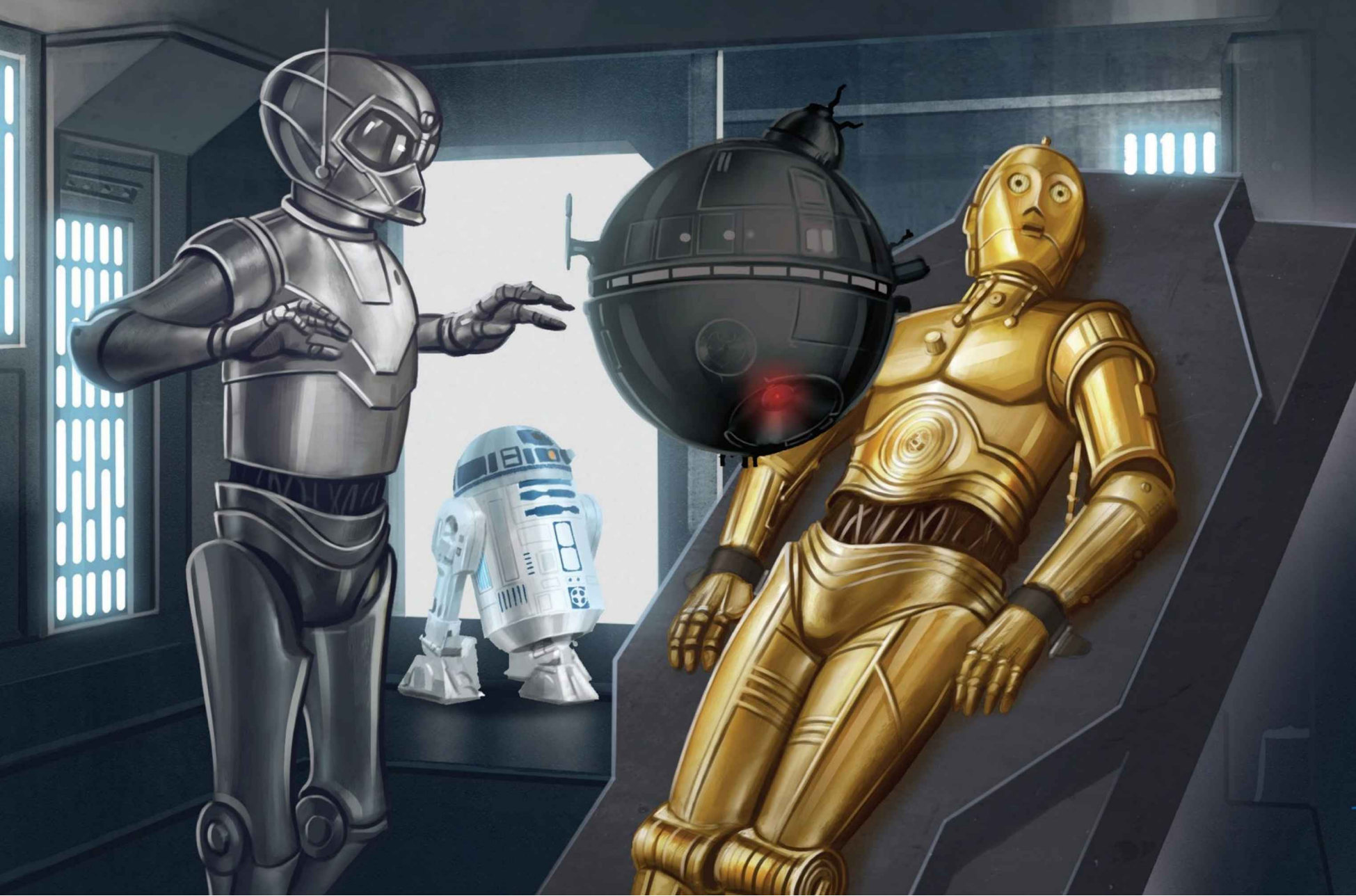
But R2-D2 didn't reply. He just rolled to the side.

"Where do you think you're going?" C-3PO exclaimed as he struggled against his restraints. "You're supposed to save me!"

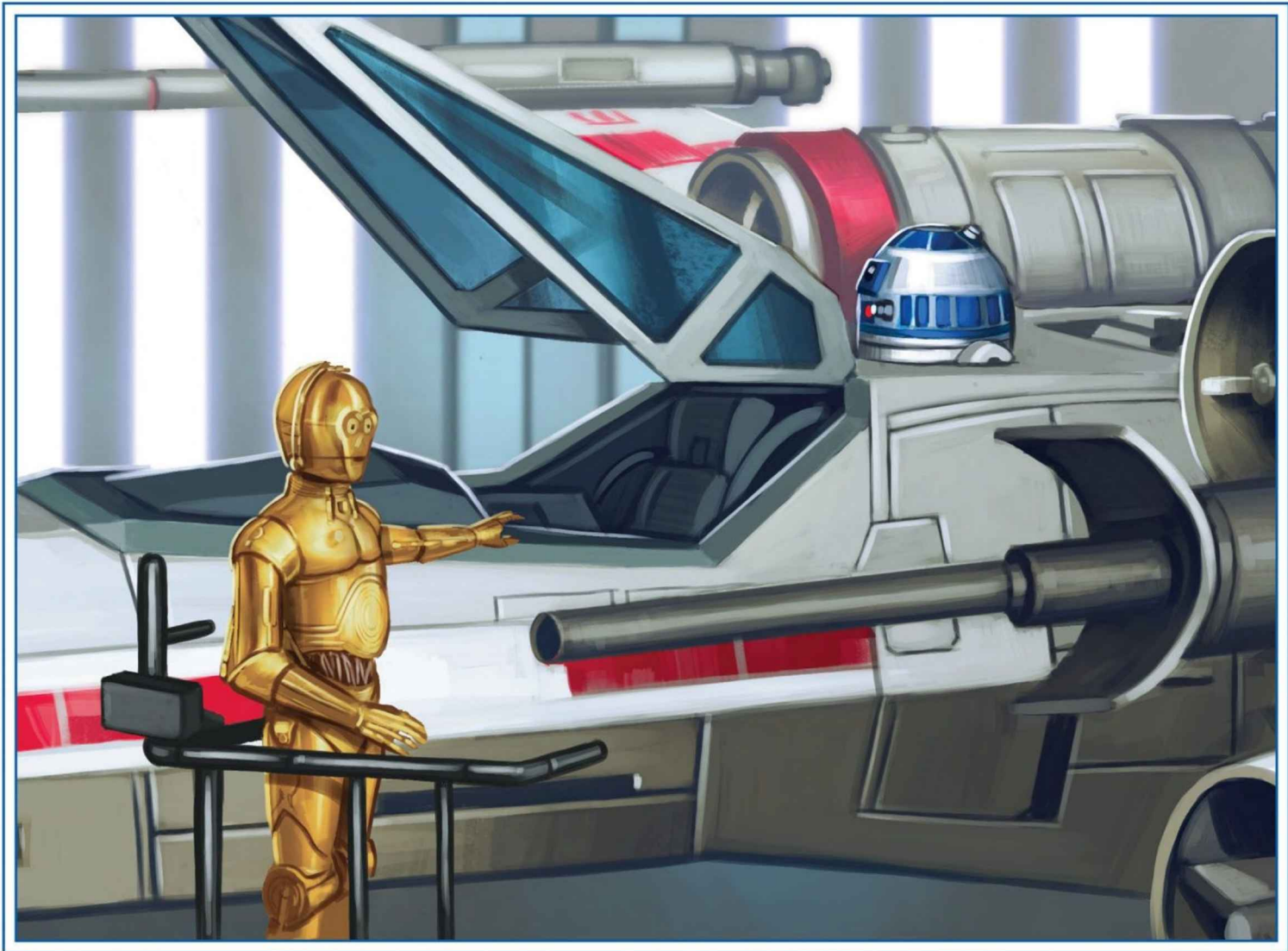
*WHIZ! ZAP! FIZZZZZ!*

The stormtroopers chasing R2-D2 entered the cell and opened fire . . . but they hit the interrogation droids by mistake.

R2-D2 and C-3PO were able to sneak away in all the confusion.







The droids raced to the cargo bay. They had to escape in the X-wing before the captain realized what had happened.

“Where are the rest of the rebels?” C-3PO asked.

“Beep-beebo-whirp,” R2-D2 replied.

“What do you mean it’s just *you*?” C-3PO exclaimed. “Artoo-Detoo, you silly bucket of bolts, whatever were you thinking? Oh, I’m going to have to save our circuits myself, aren’t I?”

As C-3PO talked, R2-D2 helped his friend aboard the X-wing and swiftly piloted their ship into space.





Meanwhile, the captain of the Star Destroyer was *not* happy.

“Whoever that intruder is, he’s just taken out three dozen troops!”

“Sir, he’s escaping in the X-wing,” a crewman reported. “We’re activating the tractor beam before they can jump to hyperspace.”

“Never mind that!” the captain yelled. “Blast that ship before Darth Vader hears!”

Unfortunately, Darth Vader had already heard.

“I will deal with you later,” he told the captain. “For now, I will follow that escaped rebel ship . . . myself!”







Darth Vader chased after the escaped X-wing in his TIE fighter.  
R2-D2 zigged and zagged, but he was no match for the evil Sith Lord.  
“That droid pilot has learned well . . . from someone,” Darth Vader mused. He  
locked on his torpedoes. “But not well enough.”  
It looked as though it was all over for the two droids, until . . .

ZZZZZZAP!

A blast rocked Darth Vader's TIE fighter!

It was Princess Leia and Han Solo in the *Millennium Falcon* and Luke Skywalker in his X-wing. They had come to the rescue!

"Shooting at Vader never gets old," said Han.

Luke contacted the droids in their X-wing.

"Artoo, lock on to these coordinates and make the jump to hyperspace. Now!"

In a burst of light, the rebel ships escaped. They were all safe, and C-3PO had been rescued.









“Thank heavens you came in time,” C-3PO said to R2-D2 once they were back with the fleet. “Though, it was my calm under pressure that really saved us all.”

“Budda-budda-thwark!” R2-D2 replied.

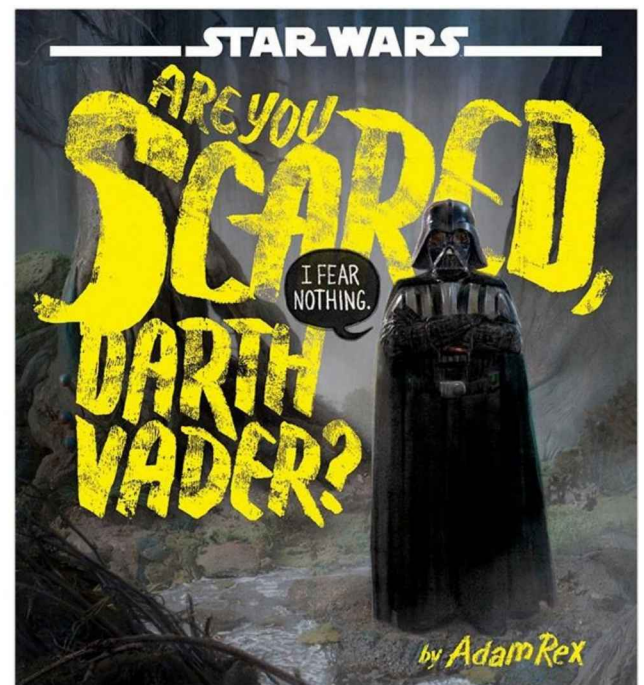
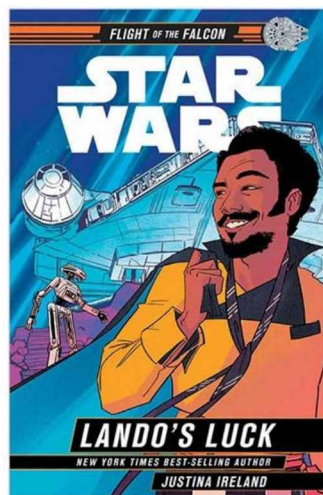
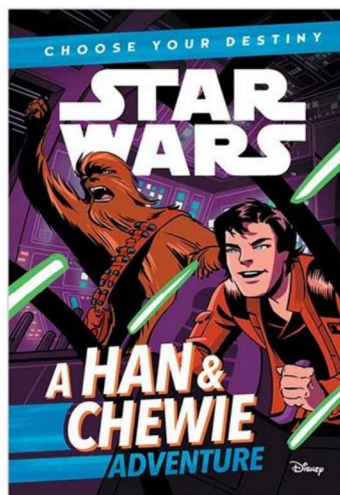
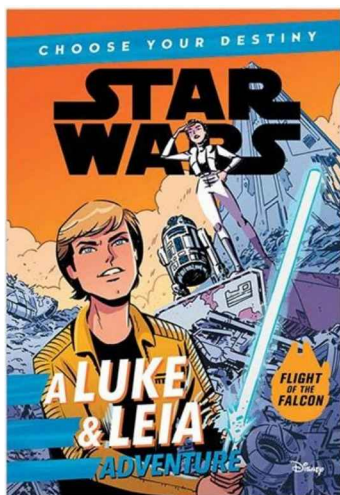
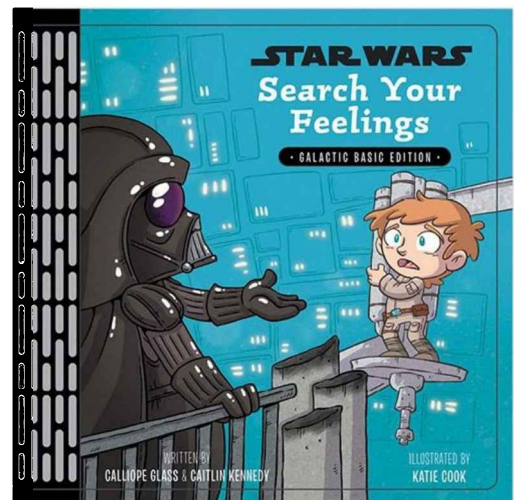
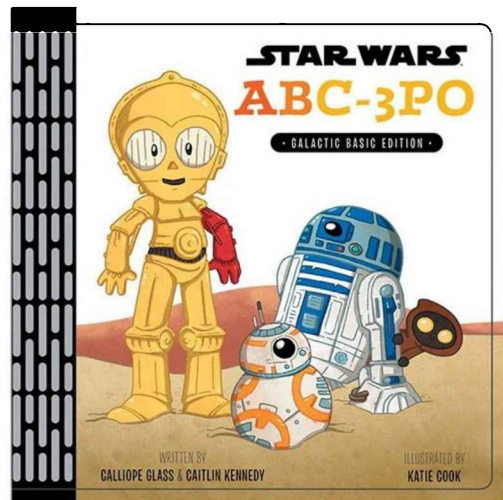
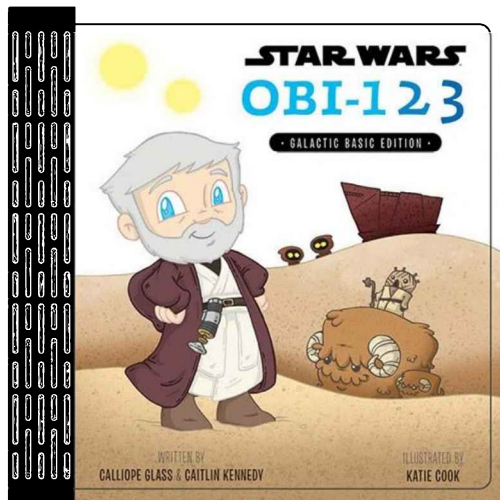
“See, you go and say things like that, and it makes me wonder why I’m so nice to you,” C-3PO said. “The stormtroopers were nicer to me than you.”

The two droids continued to bicker, but deep down, they were happy to be back together again.





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